SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 14 JUNE 2020

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans as well as in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins may be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za. To join the bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE HAMMIES SPRINT THIS AFTERNOON

THE JUNE RADIO AMATEUR EXAMINATION AGAIN POSTPONED

and

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC ANOMALY IS SPLITTING IN HALF AND WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES ARE FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We begin this bulletin with the news of two silent keys:

It is with deep regret that we must announce that the key of Johan Classen, ZS6IAM went silent on 04 June 2020. We extend our condolences to his wife and family.

It is with deep regret that we must announce that the key of Charles Oertel, ZS1CJO went silent on Saturday 6 June 2020 after he had battled with cancer for a couple of years. Charles looked after the Cape Town ARC electronic QSLing and was always part of the annual lighthouse events and club functions. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Julie, family and friends.

PAUSE

THE HAMMIES SPRINT THIS AFTERNOON

The Hammies Sprint will be held from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC this afternoon with phone activity on 40 meters. The exchange is an RS report and your provincial abbreviation. Submit your log in ADIF or Cabrillo format with a summary sheet or MS Excel format by 15 June 2020 and sent by e-mail to chairman@zs6zu.org.za or zr6dx@iafrica.com. Get the rules on page 62 of the Blue Book.

ICASA LICENCES

In a communication received from ICASA it was stated ”Please note that the renewal of licences will be done before 30 June 2020 and that no 2020/2021 licences have yet been issued. ”

THE JUNE RADIO AMATEUR EXAMINATION AGAIN POSTPONED

Thank you to all those Clubs who responded to the RAE Exam Centre Letter dated 4 June. The majority of Clubs have indicated that they are not willing to go ahead with the RAE under the current Government lock down regulations. The RAE team and the Council have therefore decided to postpone the RAE examination, which is currently set for 27 June, indefinitely or until such time that the relevant regulations permit us to hold the exam. Once the regulations have been relaxed, indicating that it is safe to have small gatherings, we will set a new date for the RAE.

We need approximately two weeks to be able to courier all the exam papers to the various centres around the country. Hence, we will give all candidates and exam centres a two weeks' notice period. We cannot make any exceptions to this rule so everyone will write the exam on the same day. This will also give each Club more time to complete the HF assessment for their candidates. All exam centres should continue mentoring their candidates, using one of the online platforms such as Zoom and Cisco Webex. We will also have to postpone the October RAE. A new date will be set in consultation with all the invigilators and their respective Clubs.

A FINAL CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE IARU REGION 1 GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Region 1 General Conference is scheduled for October in Novi Sad, Serbia. SARL Members are invited to submit Papers for discussion covering ARDF; ARSPEX; EMC; Emergency Communications; HF; HST; IARUMS; IPHA; STARS; VHF and higher and Youth.

The Papers discussed at the Region 1 Interim Meeting held in Vienna in April 2019 can be found at https://vienna.iaru-r1.org/. Submit Papers in MS Word by Friday 3 July 2020 to secretary@sarl.org.za. No late papers will be accepted.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC ANOMALY IS SPLITTING IN HALF AND WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES ARE FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

Join Dr Pieter Kotzé of SANSA Space Science on Amateur Radio Today as he explains how the South Atlantic Anomaly is splitting in half and what the consequences are for South Africa.

In an area stretching from Africa to South America, the Earth's magnetic field is gradually weakening. This strange behaviour has geophysicists puzzled as it is causing technical disturbances in satellites orbiting the Earth. Researchers have long known that one of the Van Allen Radiation belts dips down toward Earth over South America, creating a zone of high radiation called ”The South

Atlantic Anomaly". Since its discovery in 1958, the South Atlantic Anomaly has been shape-shifting, growing larger and intensifying.

In popular media it is often referred to as "The mythical Bermuda Triangle" and blamed for the unexplained disappearance of ships and aircraft. The South Atlantic Anomaly is part of a radiation belt, which is a ring of trapped solar radiation between 1 000 and 6 000 kilometres above the Earth's surface. It is due to weak points in the planet's magnetic field. Now scientists are using data from the European Space Agency's Swarm constellation to improve their understanding of the phenomenon. A team of Italian scientists has recently been able to more accurately calculate the boundaries of the South Atlantic Anomaly and found that the radiation levels were much less in the lower layers than in the upper layers, and that the anomaly was actually drifting east at around 34 kilometres a year.

The Earth's magnetic field is vital to life on our planet. It is a complex and dynamic force that protects us from cosmic radiation and charged particles from the Sun. The magnetic field is largely generated by an ocean of superheated, swirling liquid iron that makes up the outer core around 3 000 km beneath our feet. Acting as a spinning conductor in a bicycle dynamo, it creates electrical currents, which in turn, generate our continuously changing electromagnetic field.

THE IARU HAS DEVELOPED A PAPER ADDRESSING INCREASING NOISE FROM DIGITAL DEVICES

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) specialists Tore Worren, LA9QL and Martin Sach, G8KDF, submitted a paper to the International Special Committee on Radio Interference (CISPR) concerning the increasing impact of multiple digital devices on noise levels in the radio spectrum. The paper was considered at the CISPR Steering Committee in late May and it was adopted for circulation to the CISPR National Committee for comment as a Committee Draft, with a view toward its becoming a CISPR Report. "IARU hopes that the result of this will be amendments to the way in which standards are developed to recognize the need to properly consider the cumulative impact of multiple devices," said IARU Region 1 President Don Beattie, G3BJ, in an IARU news brief.

(Thanks to IARU Region 1)

MORE CONTESTS DURING THE WEEK

The first leg of the SARL Youth Sprint will be run from 12:00 to 14:00 UTC on Tuesday 16 June, which is a public holiday. It is a CW and phone sprint on the 40-meter band and the exchange is an RS or RST report and the operators' age. Submit your log in ADIF or Cabrillo format with a summary sheet or use the MS Excel form available from the League website. Send the log by 23:59 CAT on Sunday 21 June 2020 by e-mail to zs4bfn@mweb.co.za.

The Top Band QSO Party, which runs from 00:00 UTC on Thursday 18 June to

00:00 UTC on Monday 22 June, gives you the opportunity to obtain the QSOs for the SARL Top Band Certificate and increase the number of grid squares you have worked on 160 meters. This is a CW and phone contest and the exchange is an RS or RST report and your provincial or country abbreviation. You may work the same station once per mode. Submit your log by 29 June 2020 by e-mail to contest@sarl.org.za.

The third leg of the SARL 95 40 m Club Sprint will be on the air from 12:00 to 13:00 UTC on Saturday 20 June with CW and phone activity. The exchange is a RS or RST report and your 4 figure grid locator. Log sheets in MS Excel format ONLY must be submitted by 23:59 CAT on Saturday 27 June by e-mail to zs4bfn@mweb.co.za.

Get the full set of rules in the 2020 Blue Book.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to remain at low levels. There is currently only a single sunspot with a simple magnetic configuration visible and no flaring is expected. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. The 20 to 30 m bands will, especially around sunrise and sunset, provide some DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today – the Hammies Sprint

16 June – the SARL Youth Sprint (public holiday)

17 June – World QRP Day

18 to 22 June – the SARL Top Band QSO party

20 June – the Winter Solstice and the SARL 95 40 m Club Sprint

4 July – the SARL Newbie Party

5 July – the ZS5 Sprint

11 July – the RaDAR Challenge

11 and 12 July – the IARU HF Championships

To conclude our bulletin, a quick overview of our main news item:

The Hammies Sprint will be held from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC this afternoon with phone activity on 40 meters. The exchange is an RS report and your provincial abbreviation. Submit your log in ADIF or Cabrillo format with a summary

sheet or MS Excel format by 15 June 2020 and sent by e-mail to chairman@zs6zu.org.za or zr6dx@iafrica.com.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 Central African Time. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower sideband. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 Central African Time on 3 620 kHz. We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Andy Cairns, ZS6ADY, edited by Paul Johnson, ZS1S and read by .....

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.